

**AGING IN COMMUNITY COMMITTEE
OF THE COMMISSION ON AGING**

Date: March 14, 2023

Call to order: Meeting called to order at 9:33AM

Commissioners In Attendance: Betsy Carrier (co-chair), Marsha Weber, Laurie Pross, Joyce Dubow, Sibon Ncube, Mona Grieser, Mary Sweeney, David Engel, Barbara Selter,

Staff: Pazit Aviv, MC AAA, Diana Ruiz

Pazit introduced Diana Ruiz who has just been hired as the Village Outreach Coordinator. She will focus on helping to develop villages in Hispanic neighborhoods. Her first area of focus is the Long Branch neighborhood near Langley Park. This position is funded with ARPA funds.

Guests: Sara Fought, Jewish Council for the Aging

Opening Remarks from the Co-Chair: Betsy welcomed everyone and reviewed the agenda for the meeting that featured a presentation by Pazit Aviv about villages.

Approval of the Minutes: The February 14, 2023 meeting minutes were reviewed and motion and second for approval.

PRESENTATION:

Pazit Aviv presented an update on village activities in Montgomery County with a focus on the “hub and spoke” (H& S”) project.

Highlights of her presentation included:

- Brief history of villages and recap of H&S project to date.
- Initially among MoCo villages there was “push back” on implementing the H&S model in MoCo. The H&S model that has been used in areas outside of MoCo did not appear to offer enough flexibility to MoCo villages.
- There is a small “writing group” exploring and presenting options to the MoCo village community re H & S. From these discussions developed ideas for consideration of a model with greater flexibility.
- Met with attorney from Maryland Nonprofits to discuss ideas and further refined a “consortium” model that would offer greater organizational and contractual flexibility. Some villages may choose to go under the 501c3 of the hub, while others may enter a contractual relationship with the hub and “pay for services”. The hub will financially support underserved communities who wish to have a village but lack the capacities to do so.

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- Village that participates will have one representative on the board. It is envisioned that there will be three contractual options that would offer different levels of engagement. The levels of engagement would reflect the types of services that a village would chose to use including: communications, such as newsletters, web content and social media; fund raising to seek grant funding; and volunteer management. etc
- The current exploration is being supported by \$40,000 of ARPA funds. In addition, Little Falls and Friendship Heights Neighbors Network are submitting a grant to MoCo Office of Grants Management
- It is contemplated that the H&S model also would be offered to Maryland villages outside of MoCo.

QUESTIONS& CLARIFICATIONS RE HUB AND SPOKE:

- These discussions about H&S are being facilitated by Pazit but the concept belongs to the villages.
- Question from Joyce: What about decision making? A: Decision making is evolving—but likely that each participating village will have one vote.
- Question from Barbara: What about villages that have not been at the table to date on this project? A: They are welcome to join, for example Bannockburn. Pazit will reach out to them.
- Question from Mona- Will this just be another layer or will this help seniors? A: People who are involved in this initiative are seniors. Some villages need this type of support to ensure their sustainability.
- Question how much it will cost to participate? A: That has not been finalized, but participants will need to have “some skin in the game”. Pazit estimates to launch an H & S model would require a first year budget of @\$120,000.
- Question: What is the County’s role? A: Facilitation, financial support, to help underserved communities.
- Question: What can CoA’s role be? A: To promote the village concept, including additional presentations on 50+, advocate for financial support, Commissioners serving as village ambassadors.
- Question from Mona: How will the success of this model be measured? A: Outcome measures will be developed.

OTHER ISSUES REPORTED ON BY PAZIT:

- ARPA funds are being used to support a shared care manager position for villages. The County has hired someone to fill this position and they will begin in April. This position will be part of and report to a department in Aging and Disability that has other case managers. There was discussion about the complexities of this position re HIPAA rules, confidentiality, and flow of information etc. Pazit said that these concerns are being carefully thought out as the process is being put in place. MoCo may look to the DC Capitol Hill Village that already has a case management program in place.
- ARPA funds for these various projects will be available until September 2024.

OTHER BUSINESS:

UPCOMING PUBLIC FORUM: Betsy and David provided a brief update on the public Forum. We need input from AIC committee members specifically to share the meeting announcement and to help out on the day of the event. Marsha suggested that people be given specific assignments for day of meeting.

UPCOMING MEETING: The next AIC meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 11th at 9:30 am. The focus of this business meeting will be on universal design. Mona shared some preliminary research and that she has not yet found a jurisdiction that requires UD or Design for Life at the time of initial construction as a policy. Individual builders choose to add the features depending on the needs of the populations they serve.

David and Pazit clarified that ADA requirements refer to outside access to a space and universal design requirements refers to how a space is habitable for daily living.

SENIOR FELLOW: There was discussion about what happened to the funding for the one-quarter senior fellow position. The consensus was that this had been a modest expenditure for a part time position that had produced excellent work. Marsha reported that the dollars for this position were eliminated from the human resources budget. Marsha is following up on the timetable and the next round of funding for this position and will report back to the committee.

MOCO 2024 BUDGET: The MoCo budget will be releases on March 15. The Public Policy Committee will meet on 3/20 at 9:30 to discuss talking points re the budget.

MEETING ADJOURNED: Motion and seconded to adjourn meeting at 10:53